

IMPERIAL FAMILY OF JAPAN

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN

It is undoubtedly true that no other monarch in history ever saw such a change in the affairs of his people as the present ruler of Japan has witnessed during his reign. Mutsuhito, emperor of Japan when he was 16 years old, and he will be 36 on November 3. He is the 121st ruler of his dynasty, belonging to a line of monarchs which stretches through the unbroken period of 2568 years. Greater progress has been made in the forty-one years of his reign than in all the time since Jimmu Tenno, the first historical ancestor of the present Son of Heaven, sat upon the throne in 660 B. C.

Although the seclusion of the present monarch causes much comment, his person is held about with much less formality than was put around his ancestors. In the old time the Mikado was altogether secluded from the public. No one but his wife, his concubines, and his most important ministers were ever permitted to look upon his august face. When receiving his subjects upon a matting throne, and his face was protected from view by a richly embroidered curtain. It was a strict rule of etiquette that his sacred feet should never touch the earth. It is said that the present emperor never walked until he was 18 years old, which may account for his awkward gait, which is still noticeable.

In olden times the emperor traveled in a palanquin of state. His name could not be spoken aloud by the ruler and file of his subjects, and when written had to be left unfinished by omitting the last stroke of the writing brush. The first time a Japanese emperor's name was ever written in full during his lifetime was when the present sovereign issued his edict promising the people a constitutional form of government. The emperor's name was written in full upon the emperor's throne, so that when he drives through the streets the blinds of upper windows must be closed and no one dares to climb on anything to get a view of his majesty. Formerly no one was permitted to look upon the emperor through spectacles, but in recent years this rule has been modified in the case of persons who must wear glasses of necessity. But it is still wrong to see the emperor through glass, and to avoid any chance of anyone's seeing him through a window he grants audiences and does his work in a room in which all the blinds are nailed down.

The legal cause of this extravagant reverence attitude of the people is found in the Third Article of the Constitution of Japan, which says: "The emperor is sacred and inviolable." Further explanation of this clause is made in the official commentary on the Constitution. "The emperor is heavenly descended, divine and sacred. His majesty was established at the time when the heavens and the earth became separated. He is pre-eminent above all his subjects. The law has no power to hold him accountable to the people. Not only shall there be no irreverence to the emperor's person, but he shall not be made a topic for derogatory comment, nor even one of discussion. His person is sacred, and his name is considered about, and have incalculable in the law of the land a prohibition of the use of his name in ordinary conversation.

The emperor has no dissipation and practices the utmost regularity, spending nearly his whole time in the discharge of his official duties. He is said to resemble the German emperor in the faculty of being able to choose trustworthy assistants. Although his majesty cannot read or speak any language other than that of his own country, his interpreters keep him informed of the utterances of the foreign press for his information. Quite in conformity with the idea his subjects have about his divinity, is the claim that he never shows emotion. If there are moments when his anger gets beyond his control, no reports of them ever reach beyond the palace walls.

The emperor always wears a military uniform and has done so ever since he assumed Japanese dress years ago. Not only when he appears in public, but when working at his European desk, he is dressed in the full uniform of a general or admiral. His interest in the equipment of his soldiers was illustrated by an incident of war times. A body of troops was passing and he ordered one of the privates to be sent to him. He examined the soldier's uniform and asked a great many questions about them. Then to satisfy himself, he sent for a pair of the

same kind and wore them for two or three days to test their comfort.

The one hobby of the Mikado is his love of poetry. No day passes without his turning out forty or fifty poems, which, according to Japanese rule, must consist of either sixteen or thirty-one syllables. His capacity in this particular is so great that the official court poet estimates that during the past thirty years his Majesty has written fully 70,000 poems. It is told that when the emperor was only 8 years old his father gave him a number of subjects for verses, and he has had an unvarying love of this kind of composition ever since. Each January the emperor selects a subject and the public is requested to send in poems on this theme. Thousands of responses are received, and the bureau of poetry is rushed for months in the work of passing upon them all. Finally the committee selects what are considered the six best poems and these are read at court and published in all the papers. Of course this honor is regarded very highly by the successful competitors. This year the subject was: "The Pine Tree Beside the Shrine." The emperor's contribution was: "The Evergreen Pine Tree Stands Beside the Shrine Which Guards the Empire Immovable." Among the six successful contributors there was only one woman, who wrote: "In the Garden Fronting the Shrine, the Cranes Play Under the Pine-Tree Foliage." While the translation destroys the meter, an understanding of the idea may be obtained.

The present court poet is 70 years old, and it is said that he is soon to retire from office on account of the arduous duties attached to it. There is a story which shows that although the Mikado may be supreme in ruling the Japanese nation, the court poet is the boss of his department. Years ago, the emperor and his poetical adviser were both young men, they made a trip together from Kyoto to Tokyo. They traveled along for several days in sight of Fujiyama, the sacred mountain. Of course the poet inspired the emperor to dash off a number of effusions. In trying to determine which of the lot was the best a dispute arose, and the discussion became so heated that the court poet resigned on the spot. However, his august master declined to release him, and in the overtures which followed it was agreed that in future his Majesty should accept the rulings of his minister of music without question. And even to this day the court poet of Japan is not a figurehead.

Aside from his love of poetry, the emperor has absolutely no amusements. When a young man he was quite skillful in the practice of archery and for a time spent a portion of each day in drilling a company of troops. The fact that he is susceptible to sea sickness is said to be the reason why he does not have an imperial yacht. Whenever it becomes necessary for him to journey on the water he travels in a steamer chartered for the occasion, or utilizes one of the battleships of the Japanese navy. Although his majesty has a number of country places and game preserves, he rarely or never visits them, preferring to remain at the capital of his empire.

The empress of Japan is a noble and inspiring woman. Her name is Hiko, and she is the daughter of a noble of the highest rank. She is two years older than the Mikado. The sacredness of the imperial personages was shown by an incident which occurred when it was determined that the court ladies should adopt European dress. At this time great difficulty was experienced in getting clothes to fit her imperial majesty. The profane hands of a dressmaker for the occasion, or touches the person of the empress, so a court lady had to pose as a model until the garments were gradually made to fit.

The empress also has poetic inclinations, and is herself the author of several volumes of verse. One of the features of all state occasions is the singing of a song by the school children which was composed for them by her majesty. During the rendition of this song the children stand with their heads bowed as if in prayer. The empress takes a great deal of interest in all school work, and has in her private apartments a large collection of the best specimens of poetry, painting and composition done by the pupils of the empire.

A story is told which reveals the kindness of her majesty's character. Some years ago, when the castle in Tokio was burned, the emperor and empress were forced to take tempo-



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Many quarters in a near-by house, which was old and rather out of repair. Although the proportions of the place were ample it was altogether lacking in the luxuries of the palace. A representative of the people expressed to the emperor the grief which her subjects felt because she was denied her usual conveniences. She arose to the occasion by writing a graceful little poem in which she said that it mattered little how she was situated so long as she was sure of a home in the hearts of her people.

Another story illustrates her majesty's consideration for the happiness of children. One of the little princesses once conceived the unreasonable idea of wanting to give a cherry-blossom party in December. Although April is the earliest that these trees may be expected to put forth their delicate flowers, skilled artisans were called in and after much labor created the desired effect by pinning to the trees myriads of pink and white blossoms made of tissue paper. Thus the whims of the eccentric little princess was gratified. (Copyright, 1908, by Frederic J. Haskin.)

Tomorrow—The House of Mitsui.

Salt Lake Statistics

Births.

Alfred L. Farrell, 181 Canyon road, boy.
Elva E. Black, L. D. S. hospital, boy.
John H. Glenn, 1027 Emerson avenue, girl.
John Nelson, 1101 South First West, girl.

Deaths.

Waldo Thomas Lloyd McDonald, 110 West North Temple, asthma, aged 24.
Thomas Parsons, Jr., Mark's hospital, chronic general carditis, aged 34.
Louis D. Gordon, Jr., 1159 First avenue, infantile trouble, aged 1 month.
Joseph R. Morris, Winnemucca, Nev., pneumonia, aged 58.
Emmett Johnson, 22 West Second South street, hemorrhage of lungs, aged 35.

Marriage Licenses.

Charles Caldwell of Murray and Lottie Carlson of Sandy.
Warren C. Eoley and Barbara Carter of American Fork.
Glenn D. Plyler and Cecilia Peterson of Salt Lake.
Lennie Turnbow of Salt Lake and Bertha Arnold of Mill Creek.
Charles G. Green of Draper and Ada Chamberlain of Charleston.
Harry C. Bacon of Rutte, Mont., and Stella Louise Dix of Salt Lake.
Robert Oggle and Marie Hubschmid of Salt Lake.
Joseph F. White and Elizabeth L. Peterson of Salt Lake.
Joseph Calton and Mary Sobey of Cedar Fort.

Real Estate Transfers.

Frank Brundage to W. K. Miles, part lot 4, block 30, plat B, \$1,000.
J. G. Cunningham to Laura C. Cummings, lot 25, etc., block 11, Popperston place, \$2,450.
A. F. Lawson et al. to M. A. West, part lot 1, block 20, plat G, \$3,500.
E. S. Kearley to James W. Collins et al., part lot 1, block 23, plat A, \$2,700.
W. W. Dickson to John Porter, part lot 4, block 20, plat G, \$2,250.
H. C. Hoffman to J. J. Hammett et al., lot 5, block 2, No. Columbia sub, \$5.
Alfred H. Hart to George T. Korb, part lot 4, block 21, plat G, \$1,000.
Hubbard Investment company to Edward Bluet et al., lot 50, etc., block 1, East Boulevard, \$5.
Samuel Blundie to West Temple Realty company, part lot 5, block 7, plat A, \$14,750.
A. E. Fomery to West Temple Realty company, part lot 5, block 7, plat A, \$14,750.
Orrison Sanderson et al. to W. Harrop, lot 114, etc., 1st addition Murray city, \$200.
William M. Mansfield to Mark Thirgood, part lot 6, block 121, plat A, \$1.
Frederic Maitson to E. A. Cotton, lot 12, block 11, Lakeview, \$450.
R. E. McConaughy to Emma Mayne, lot 24, etc., block 2, Coates & Corbin sub, \$1,000.
Minnie B. Gray to Mary Goodall, land section 12, township 2 south, range 1 east, \$1.
Agnes Merrill to O. J. Reven et al., land section 32, township 1 south, range 1 east, \$6,000.
G. J. Klein to Helena E. Hallgren, land section 21, township 2 south, range 1 east, \$700.

Late Blizzard in Texas. FORT WORTH, Tex., April 29.—Reports received here from north Texas and the Pan Handle say a norther prevails in these sections, the mercury having dropped to 38. Snow fell in Wichita county for three hours today. Crops are not believed to have been seriously damaged.

IMPORTANT DECISION AFFECTING STOCKMEN

Court Sustains Government in Barring Cattle From Unfenced Forest Reserve.

DENVER, April 29.—In contravention of the laws of Colorado and decisions of the State Supreme Court, Judge R. E. Lewis in the United States District court, today upheld the regulations of the United States forestry service in regard to grazing upon public lands. In a test suit arranged between attorneys for the government and for the Colorado Cattle and Horse Growers' association the government sought an injunction to restrain Fred Light, a cattleman, living near Aspen, Colo., from permitting his cattle to go upon the Holy Cross forest reserve, although the land is unfenced.

By agreement the defendant did not answer the complaint, but filed a demurrer, denying that the government has any legal right to prevent him from turning his cattle out to graze under the common law and police law of the State. The demurrer was overruled by Judge Lewis. Attorneys for the stock interests will carry the case to the Supreme Court of the United States.

BANKER MORSE CANNOT ESCAPE INDICTMENTS

NEW YORK, April 29.—Indictments against Charles W. Morse and Alfred H. Curtis, former officers of the National Bank of North America, charging misappropriation of the funds of that bank, were sustained by Judge Hough in the United States Circuit court today. Counts of the indictment based on the allegations that Morse and Curtis conspired to deceive the bank examiners and controller of the currency also were sustained. Certain counts charging false reports and entries in the books of the bank were stricken out. Counsel for the defendants had demurred to all the indictments, numbering twenty-nine, which were found on March 11.

Judge Hough ruled in sustaining the indictments that it made no difference whether any of the funds alleged to have been misappropriated were refunded.

F. W. Huidekoper Dies. WASHINGTON, April 29.—Frederick Walters Huidekoper, who, during his career, held many important railroad positions, died at his home here today, as the result of a stroke of apoplexy, aged 67 years.



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